

WE CLAIM:

1. An air intake system for a vehicle, said air intake system comprising:
  - at least one air intake;
  - an engine air inlet in communication with said at least one air intake;
  - an air flow path from said at least one air intake to said engine air inlet;
  - a screen interposed between said at least one air intake and said engine air inlet such that air flowing through said air flow path must pass through said screen;
  - wherein said air flow path rises between said at least one air intake and said screen, such that air passing through said screen must rise while passing through said screen.
2. The air intake system according to claim 1, further comprising a hood that defines said at least one air intake.
3. The air intake system according to claim 2, wherein said hood comprises a first portion and a second portion engaged therewith;
  - said second portion engaging said first portion and being vertically displaced above said first portion;
  - wherein said first and second portions cooperate to define said at least one air intake.
4. The air intake system according to claim 3, wherein an underlying part of said first portion underlies said second portion.
5. The air intake system according to claim 4, wherein said underlying part is a separate piece from a remainder of said first portion.

6. The air intake system according to claim 3, wherein said first and second portions comprise a single, integral piece.

7. The air intake system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one air intake is configured such that said at least one air intake has defines substantially zero area of projection on a plane above said hood as viewed from above said hood.

8. The air intake system according to claim 4, wherein said second portion extends horizontally beyond said said at least one air intake.

9. The air intake system according to claim 2, wherein said second portion further comprises a lower surface, and wherein said screen is engaged with said lower surface of said second portion such that said screen and said lower surface cooperate to define a cavity therebetween, said cavity comprising at least a portion of said air flow path.

10. The air intake system according to claim 9, wherein said screen is removably engaged with said lower surface of said second portion.

11. The air intake system according to claim 9, wherein said screen comprises an outer edge, said outer edge being in contact with said lower surface of said second portion.

12. The air intake system according to claim 10, further comprising an edge mounting mechanism engaged with said outer edge.

13. The air intake system according to claim 9, wherein said screen defines a screen aperture therethrough.

14. The air intake system according to claim 13, further comprising an screen mount engaged with said screen aperture.

15. The air intake system according to claim 2, further comprising an air plenum defining at least a part of said air flow path, said air plenum being in communication with said engine air inlet.

16. The air intake system according to claim 14, further comprising an air plenum defining at least a part of said air flow path, said air plenum being in communication with said engine air inlet, wherein said screen mount and said air plenum are removably engaged.

17. The air intake system according to claim 2, further comprising a further air intake.

18. The air intake system according to claim 1, wherein the vehicle comprises a windshield, and said at least one air intake is defined in a position such that the windshield is between said at least one air intake and an operator of the vehicle.

19. The air intake system according to claim 1, wherein the screen is arranged such that debris filtered from air flowing through said screen along said air flow path is pulled away from said screen by gravity.

20. The air intake system according to claim 3, wherein said second portion is removable from said first portion.

21. A method for drawing air into an engine, said method comprising the steps of:

drawing air through at least one air intake into an air flow path;

drawing air from said at least one air intake through a screen disposed in said air flow path, said screen being configured such that air flowing into said air flow path must pass through said screen, said screen being configured such that air passing through said screen must rise while passing through said screen;

drawing air from said air flow path into an engine air inlet.